Types of Mobile Food Vendors

Mobile Food Truck: A mobile food truck is a retail food establishment located on a vehicle, where food is cooked, prepared and served for individual portion service. Food trucks contain complete full-service commercial kitchens, and are usually very large, around 24 feet long and 8 feet wide. Most of the food that is sold from a Food Truck is cooked inside of the truck. All serving or cooking of food is done from inside the truck.

Example of a Food Truck: Clover food Lab





Food Push Carts: Push carts are not motorized and are limited in the types of food they sell. Specifically, if they do not have handwashing facilities, they are limited to serving non-potentially hazardous foods such as coffee, cupcakes, or frankfurters (this last item requires refrigeration). If they serve potentially-hazardous foods, they must have handwashing facilities, as well as the ability to comply with time-temperature safety regulations. All retail food vendors must purchase their food items or ingredients from a wholesaler.

Example of a food push cart in Downtown Crossing.

Canteen trucks: Canteen trucks are able to serve a broader selection of food because their trucks must contain handwashing facilities, mechanical refrigeration, and hot holding equipment. While some of the products they sell are also commercially by others, some canteen trucks have grills or pizza ovens. All serving or cooking of food is done outside of the truck. Canteen trucks are regulated by the State and are restricted from vending in the Downtown.



Example of a canteen truck



Ice Cream Trucks: Ice cream trucks offer ice cream, including soft-serve, and other frozen desserts, which are kept cold in refrigerators/freezers on the trucks and distributed directly from the vehicle. If a vendor sells soft-serve ice cream, they are required to have handwashing facilities.

Example of an ice cream truck: Boston Frosty